



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - March 25, 2002

- ***In the West***, some beneficial light precipitation continues across the ***Four Corners region***, but unfavorably dry weather is returning to ***southern California***.
- ***On the Plains***, winter wheat across ***southern areas*** continues to benefit from recent topsoil moisture improvements. Light precipitation fell late in the weekend on the ***central Plains***, including parts of ***Kansas***, providing much-needed moisture for the wheat crop.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a band of snow extends from ***southern Iowa to northern Ohio***, continuing a spell of cool, often stormy March weather that has replenished soil moisture reserves but increased stress on livestock. Meanwhile, locally heavy showers are returning to portions of the ***Ohio Valley***, bringing a renewed threat of flooding.
- ***In the South***, warm weather and scattered showers are returning to the region, following Saturday morning's freeze (low temperatures generally ranged from 24 to 28 degrees F) that threatened blooming fruit trees, including peaches, from ***northern Alabama to South Carolina***.

Outlook: Continuing a trend frequently observed during March, another cool outbreak is forecast to affect areas from the ***High Plains to the East Coast***. Widespread precipitation will precede and accompany the arrival of cool air from the ***Mississippi Valley eastward***, including additional heavy rain in parts of the ***Ohio Valley*** and wet snow from the ***Midwest into the Northeast***. In the ***West***, only light precipitation is expected for the remainder of the week. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 30 - April 3 calls for lingering cool weather in the ***Pacific Northwest***, but above-normal temperatures across the remainder of the U.S. Precipitation is also expected to be above normal nearly nationwide, although the ***southern Atlantic region*** is forecast to remain unfavorably dry.

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